

The girl was eventually pulled from the water, but Deputy Gross was swept away. And he is survived by his wife Amy. Today we remember a man who swore to protect his neighbors and who kept that promise no matter what the cost.

I suspect that at that moment, Deputy Gross wasn't trying to be a hero, he was just doing his job. You can find that bravery, the courage to do your duty, day in and day out, in so many officers across our country.

One of those officers was Deputy Sheriff Suzanne Hopper, from Clark County, Ohio. Deputy Hopper was known as the go-to person in her department, no task was too large or too small.

And on New Year's Day 2011, Deputy Hopper arrived at a crime scene and began a preliminary investigation, just as she had done many times during her 12 years of service. But as she was photographing evidence, a man opened the door of his trailer and fired at her with his shotgun, killing her. And today we remember not just a fine officer, but a wife, a mother, and a stepmother.

Like all those we honor today, Deputy Hopper is also survived by the fellow officers who she meant so much to and who meant so much to her. Last week, her childhood friend, Sergeant Kris Shultz, posted her flag at a memorial in Ohio. He made a promise in her memory. He said, "To honor her, we will keep going and continue to do what we've done, no matter how hard it is at times."

We will keep going. There is no pledge that better honors the memory of those we have lost. And there are no memories—there are no words that better capture the unbreakable spirit of those who wear the badge.

Because even in the face of tragedy, I know that so many of you will return home and continue to do what you have always done. Some of you will kiss your husbands or wives good-

bye each morning and send them out the door not knowing what might happen that day. Some of you are children and parents, sisters and brothers, whose pride is mixed with worry.

And of course, there are the officers themselves. Every American who wears the badge knows the burdens that come with it: the long hours and the stress, the knowledge that just about any moment could be a matter of life or death. You carry these burdens so the rest of us don't have to.

And this shared sense of purpose brings you together, and it brings you to our Nation's Capital today. You come from different States and different backgrounds and different walks of life, but I know that you come here as a community: one family, united by a quiet strength and a willingness to sacrifice on behalf of others.

The rest of us can never fully understand what you go through, but please know that we hold you in our hearts, not just today, but always. We are forever in your debt. And it is on behalf of all of us—the entire American people—that I offer my thoughts, my prayers, and my thanks.

May God shine a light upon the fallen and comfort the mourning. May He protect the peacemakers who protect us every day. And may He bless, now and forever, the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to K. Charles Canterbury, Jr., national president, and James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, Fraternal Order of Police; Kenneth C. Canterbury II, son of Mr. Canterbury; and Margaret Falcone and John M. Falcone, Sr., parents of Detective John M. Falcone, Jr. The related proclamation of May 14 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Honoring the 2011 Major League Soccer Champion L.A. Galaxy May 15, 2012

Thank you. Everybody, please have a seat. Have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House,

everybody. And congratulations to the L.A. Galaxy on your third MLS Cup, number three.

Before we start, I want to acknowledge an L.A. native and my outstanding Secretary of Labor—I don't know how her game is, but she's a fan—Hilda Solis is here. We've got some proud members of the California delegation of the House of Representatives who are here. We're thrilled to have them.

I'm not going to flatter myself by assuming these cameras are for me. *[Laughter]* I want to thank the Galaxy for letting me share in the spotlight. The truth is, in America, most professional soccer players have the luxury of being able to walk around without being recognized, but not these guys. This is the Miami Heat of soccer. And together, they—*[laughter]*—together they represent one of the most talented lineups that MLS has ever seen.

You've got Robbie Keane, alltime leading scorer of the Irish national team. Cousin of mine. *[Laughter]* Robbie arrived halfway through last season, scored his first goal in the first 21 minutes of his first game. His teammates were so happy to have him that they filled his locker with what they called the pleasures of Ireland: Guinness, Baileys, and Irish Spring. *[Laughter]* Hopefully, Robbie has broadened their horizons a little bit since then.

We also have a young up-and-comer on the team, a guy named David Beckham. *[Laughter]* I have to say I gave David a hard time. I said half his teammates could be his kids. *[Laughter]* We're getting old, David, although you're holding up better than me.

Last year, at the age of 36, David had his best year in MLS, leading the team with 15 assists. He did it despite fracturing his spine halfway through the season, injuring his hamstring the week before the championship game. He is tough. In fact, it is a rare man who can be that tough on the field and also have his own line of underwear. *[Laughter]* David Beckham is that man. *[Laughter]*

And then, there's the captain, Landon Donovan, who has done more for American soccer than just about anybody. Landon's eye for the net, his will to win are legendary, and once again, he stepped up when his teammates needed him most.

After going undefeated at home last season, the Galaxy was struggling in the cold and rainy championship match. But then, in the 72d minute, David headed the ball to Robbie, who made the perfect pass to Landon, who chipped in the game winner. And that set off an all-night celebration in L.A., although my understanding is that David had to get up for carpool duty at 8 a.m.—*[laughter]*—so his day was ending a little early.

So the big names came through in the clutch, but they didn't do it alone. For a group with so much firepower, this team shone on defense, recording 17 shutouts. They were led by two local guys, Omar Gonzalez—give it up—*[applause]*—and A.J. DeLaGarza, who won a national championship at Maryland. Now they've got another title to their résumés.

And of course, a lot of credit goes to Coach Bruce Arena. He took this team from worst to first in just 4 years. And I want to take this opportunity to apologize to Bruce. When I called to congratulate him on winning the Cup, the team was in Indonesia; it was in the middle of the night. Thank you for taking my call and acting like you actually wanted to talk to me. *[Laughter]*

So everyone who's a part of this club—the staff, the players, the fans back in L.A.—together, you pulled off one of the toughest feats in team sports: You lived up to the hype. You combined star power, hard work; it paid off. And I also want to thank you for doing a little Q&A with some of the younger players after we're done. As a soccer dad, I know you've inspired a lot of kids. And today you're giving them an experience that they will never forget.

So again, give a big round of applause to the L.A. Galaxy. Congratulations. Best of luck this season.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Robbie Keane, forward, David Beckham and Landon Donovan, midfielders, and Omar Gonzalez and A.J. DeLaGarza, defenders, L.A. Galaxy.